



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9, 5)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Rome, 24 December 2023

To all the *Hijas de Jesús* sisters

In this meaningful season of Christmas may the Prince of Peace, the Emmanuel-God with us, fill the world and our hearts with His peace as we welcome the "Son of God", born for us. May the call for PEACE inflame us as children of one Father so that we may be His bearers of the peace this world so longs for.

The mystery of the birth of Jesus is God's greatest gift to the entire humanity. The God of all creation who comes to us in utmost humility as a fragile and helpless newborn babe reveals to us His unconditional love, He seeks and finds us to give all of us LIFE, new beginnings regardless of our race, color, culture, beliefs and language. In our world shadowed with darkness, a light has shone upon us!

Christmas is also a time of GRACE. Our Lord wants to grace each one of us with Hope, a HOPE founded in God that helps us to walk together as brothers and sisters to be messengers of hope for those who are hopeless. He never gives up on us, nor abandons His beloved people. He comes at a time when we need Him most. In a world where life is being threatened, where heart-breaking realities beyond our imagination happen, where families and loved ones are torn apart by wars, conflicts and the sad situation of our planet, our Lord, the only source of Hope and refuge invites us to join hands to make this world a better place to live in.



Like the lowly shepherds, with grateful hearts together let us welcome this wonderful night of his coming. Humbly, let us approach the manger and bend our knees, adore and contemplate this precious gift, "Jesus" who came for our sake. Let us allow our hearts to be His manger too, for He always yearns to dwell deep in our hearts and be lovingly embraced. Perhaps, this is the best gift we can give Him at this time. Let His presence brings us warmth, strength, closeness, forgiveness and healing.

May the holy child's cry unite our thoughts and prayers with those we journey together, especially the poor as we re-encounter a God who gives us meaning and existence, which is the true essence of Christmas.

A Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Graciela Francovig, FI, General Superior
Sisters of the General Council and of the General Curia Community